ENGLANDS

REMONSTRANCE

TO THEIR

KING

Wherein is declared, the humble Desires of His Majesties loyall and faithfull Subjects within the Kingdome of *England*,

To the Kings most Excellent Majestie,

now resident in the Isle of *Wight*.

Containing the very sense of all the true-hearted of the *Kingdom*, touching His Majesties Royall Person; but because the way to the *Kings* eare is stopt, is now sent to *London*, and published for generall satisfaction of the whole *KINGDOME*.

Printed for *G. Horton*, and are to be sold at the Royall Exchange in Cornhill. MDCXLVIII.

To the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty.

The humble *Remonſtrance* of your diſtreſſed, and almoſt deſtroyed Subjects of your Kingdom of *England*.

Dread Soveraigne,

ITs a double grief to our ſoules, that we ſhould be conſtrained to beg for our lives at your hands, who are bound by the Law of God and Nature, and by your Oath, to preſerve them, and that we ſhould be forced to entreat you to ſpare our eſtates, liberties, & blond, whoſe honour and ſtrength depends ſo much upon theſe our enjoyments: But extremity prevaileth, and drives us to you, and caſteth us here proſtrate at the feet of your Majeſty: And let not your Majeſty be offended, if we ſpeak more plainly then uſually becometh us; for neceſſity hath no law: It is for our lives and more, and therefore blame us not to ſpeak; our friends, our wives, our children, our wants, our dangers, our country, our bloud do all pierce our ears and hearts with their dayly and doleſull cryes: Oh that our requeſts could find as quick acceſſe to yours.

Surely! its impoſſible your Majeſty ſhould be ignorant of the doleſull conditions your two Kingdoms are in; Doe you not know that our houſes have beene plundered, and the fruit of our long labours taken from us; that men who have heretofore relieved hundreds of the poor, have not left them a bed to ly on, food to ſuſtaine them, or a houſe to put their heads in?

And the poore they were wont to relieve, are forced to become ſouldiers, that they may rob us by authority.

Know you not how many thouſand diſtreſſed ſoules cry to God day and night, in their anguiſh and miſery, while they ſee you the Father of their Countrey, having no compaſſion on them? Oh!

where is now your Majesties ancient clemency? You were wont if we lost our estates by Pyrats, or but a house by fire, *to grant Your gracious Letters Patents for our relief*; but now the souldiery rob us of all, and have burnt our houses to the ground, & this not only for obtaining victory in heat of fight, but upon deliberation afterwards.

Know you not how our bloud is spilt and the dead bodies of your subjects, yea many of your Nobles scattered as dung on the face of the Earth? Have not your eyes seen it, and your eares heard the groanes of the wounded gaspe for life? Is all this nothing in your eyes? To whom should your people go but to your Majesty in this our distresse? We have tryed all other known means, and professe in the sight of God, we know none but your Majesty, under God, that can deliver us, without more bloud and desolation; and the world knows it is in your hands, you may do it if you will, and doe it easily, and do it with encrease of your honour, safety and happinesse. What if it were to part with something of your right, yet should not your Majesty do it to save the life of your people, from whom, and for whose good, You first received it?

Dread Soveraign, We beseech you consider, what hath your *Parliament* and *People* done, that deserves all this from You? Is it because your *Parl.* relieved us from oppressing Courts, and illegall taxations? Was it not with your own consent? and is it not your glory to be King of a rich and free people? Is it because they prosecute Delinquents? Why to what ends are your Courts of Justice else? and are not they your chiefest Court? And can those be friends to you, and worth the defending, that are enemies to your Kingdoms? For your Forts and Navy, are they not yours for your Kingdoms good? And is not your *Parliament*, the Kingdom Representative? We know your Majesty cannot manage them in your owne person, but by your Ministers, and those chosen by Councell; and can You or the Kingdom possible judge any more able, impartial, and faithfull to advise you in this then your *Parliament*? They medled not with it, till absolute necessity constrained; till they saw *Ireland* in rebellion, the Rebels threatning *England*, the same spirits as malignant and active at home, and their own lives and the Kingdome in present apparent jeopardy, and your Majesties consent to their Bill denyed,

We

We cannot possibly conceive what your Parliament can do now to remedy any of these miseries; they humbly seek your consent in vaine; the offenders legally proceeded against are defended from them, yea those that your Majesty hath proclaimed such; that is denied them which is yeelded to every the lowest court of Justice they desire nothing more then your presence and concurrence; and we know if humble Petitions or loyall affections would procure it there would not have been so long a distance. Neither is there any visible means left, but either give up our states Liberties and Religion to the disposse of your two-long tryed secret Councel, and make your Majesties meere will the onely Law and so betray their Countrey, and the trust committed to them; (which God forbid) or else defend us by the sword.

And for us your people, what have we done that we are made a common spoile? Would your Majesty desire us perfidiously to betray them whom we have trusted; and desert them that have been so faithfull to us? and to kill them whom we have chosen to save us? and destroy those who are our selves representatively? Then should we be the disgrace of the *English* Nation, the reproach of our posterity, the very shame of nature, and should presently expect some strange judgement of God according to the strangenesse of our offence. Its true, we were forced to take, *Arma in defensionem contra Cæsarem* or rather to save our throats from the violence of desperate persons about You; But we beseech you call not this bearing Arms against you, it may be against your will, but if before your followers were more respective of your royall authority established by Law, more truely tender of your person then we; then let not God prosper our proceedings, but cause us to fall before them, and give us up into their hands.

We were fallen upon by the cruell, and because we would not dye quietly & without resistance, we are accused as traytors and enemies to your Majesty.

We beseech your Majesty, consider in the presence of God, if your own Father and King had run upon you with his drawn sword whether would you have suffered death without resistance, or have taken the sword *protempore* out of his hand; & yet neither be averse to his honour & person, or his propriety in his weapon,

Doth not nature teach us the preſervation of our ſoules? will not the eye wink without deliberation? and the ſmalleſt worm turne back if you tread on it?

And beſide nature, we have frequent preſidents in ſacred Writ, for even more then defenſive reſiſtance of Tranſcendent Monarchy, *1 Sam.* 14. 44 45.

But if all this were nothing, yet we know your Majeſty ha h paſſed an Act for the continuance of this Parliament: and ſure that Act muſt needs mean a Parliament with its power and authority, and not the meer name and carkaſſe of a Parliament; Its not only that they ſhall ſtay together in *London*, and doe nothing, or no more then another Cour; but that they continue your chief Councel, your chief Court, and have ſole legiſlative power, which are your Parliaments peculiar properties.

And if your Majeſty hath enacted the continuance of a real Parliament in its power, who ſeeth not that you have thereby joyned with them your Royall Authority, though not your perſon.

Doth not your Majeſty in your Expreſſes oft mention your ſelfe a part of the Parliament? and that the Head without which the Body cannot live? and is the Parliament valid without your authority?

Therefore, if your Majeſty have formerly withdrawne from them your Royal Authority, then you have broke your own Laws; which we dare not judge after ſo many ſolemn Proteſtations to maintain and rule by the known Laws.

Wherefore, we hope your Majeſty muſt needs diſcerne that wee fought not againſt you, but for your known eſtabliſht Authority in *Parliament*.

And we hope your Majeſty will not deny them to be your entire *Parliament*; for is the Act recalled whereby they were eſtabliſhed? If not, how can they ceaſe to be your *Parliament*? neither let the fault be laid on part of them; for we all know the major part hath the Authority of the whole; and if it were the *minor* part, why did not, or doth the *major* over-vote them.

And we beſeech your Majeſty, blame us not to think our Religion and all lyes at the ſtake, while we look back by what a train Popery had been almoſt brought upon us by that party. and ſee them ſtill the chief in favour and when ſo many Papiſts *English* and forreign have been in Arms againſt us, and know no one Papiſt in the Land that is not zealous in the cauſe.

Wonder

We wonder not, *Dread Soveraign*, if we hardly believe that those who would so cruelly have destroyed us, should be most zealous in fighting for the Protestant Religion. Blame us not, we beseech you, to fear, while we see no contradiction appear to Mounsieur *de Chesne* his book, sold openly for many yeers, not in *Paris* only, but in *London*, and read at Court, which records your Maj. Letter to the Pope, promising to venter Crown, and all to unite us to *Rome* again.

Dread Soveraign many Princes have gone astray through strength of temptation, and after have been happy in repenting and returning; Oh that the Lord would make it your case, and glorifie his mercy on you and us, in making knowne to you the thing concerning our peace, and not his justice in hardning you to destruction: that it may never be read in our Chronicle by the Generations to come, that *England* had a Prince who lived and dyed in seeking the desolation of his people, and the Church of God. Your Majesty knoweth there is a King and a Judge above you; before whom You must very shortly stand and give account of your Government; We desire you in the presence of that God, to think, and think seriously, and think again how sad it will be, to have all this bloud charged on your soule; Can your Maj. think of this when you are dying? Can those Councellours that have set you on then bring you as safely off? Your Maj. may despise what we say, and judge us your enemies because we tell you the truth, & speak as dying men in the sorrow of our soules; but you cannot so put by divine justice, or quiet conscience at the last: As true as the Lord liveth, your Maj. will one day know that Blasphemers and Flatterers are not your friends; but plain dealers, who do assure you, the ways you have taken, tend to the utter ruine and destruction of your Kingdome. And can your heart endure, or can your hands be strong in the day the Lord will reckon with you for his people committed to your charge? O think of the low condition your Majesty is now in, how your friends have left and forsaken you; and in stead of commanding three Kingdoms, confin'd to a petty Island, Suppose you now heard the bloud of your people already spilt, crying in your ears, & saw the many thousands yet living a life worse then death, lying in their sorrows at your feet, crying for pitty, help. O King help, or we lose our liberties, laws, lives and Religion; help, that your Self and Royall Posterity be not Princes of an impoverished desolate Nation: helpe as ever you would have God help you in the day of death and judgment, when

your Self ſhall cry for help and pitty; helpe, that deliverance come not ſome other way, while you and your Fathers houſe are deſtroyed. The Lord God of our hopes, who hath for our ſins moſt juſtly afflicted us in You, give Your Majeſty a diſcerning eye, a holy and tender heart, to yeeld to the Deſires of your diſtreſſed Subjects, *To return to and concur with your Parliament*, that God and Man may forget your miſtakings, and you may be the bleſſed'ſt Prince that ever reigned in our Land, the terrour of your reall enemies, the joy of your people, and the glory of poſterity; Such ſhall be the dayly and hearty prayers of

Your Majeſties loyall (however eſteemed) Subjects, &c.

POSTCRIPT.

GOod Friend, *We would have you know this Remonſtrance was intended only for his Majeſties view, but becauſe plain dealing is ſeldome well taken, and his Majeſty ſo guarded from the requeſts of his Subjects, we are therefore forced to ſubmit it to your common view, and to turn it out, in hope his Majeſty may light of one Copy, and ſeriouſly read it, and lay to heart the diſtreſſe of the miſerable: if you cenſure it as the work of ſome few diſcontented perſons, Know you it is the ſenſe of the North and North weſt of England, and if you will promiſe us freedome, and hopes of ſucceſſe, wee'l ſoon return it you with the hands of* 100000. *If you condemn us for ſpeaking too plainly, know that miſery makes men forget good manners, and dying men uſe not complements; We are in the caſe of the Lepers,* If we ſit ſtill we periſh; *therefore, we will move in the way of hope, and go in to the King, though it be not according to law, and* if we periſh we periſh. *Yet know, we will come far ſhort of the plainneſſe of better perſons and times,* 2 Sam. 12. 7. 1 King. 18. 18. &c. &c. &c.

Febr. 16. 1647. *Imprimatur,*

GILBERT MABBOT.

FINIS.

REPRODUCED FROM THE COPY IN THE

HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

FOR REFERENCE ONLY. NOT FOR REPRODUCTION